

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-25 are pending, with claims 8, 13 and 14 temporarily withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-3, 9-12 and 15-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda (EP 1,010,613) in view of Kerdjoudj, et al (US D451,072). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

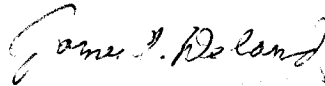
Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the drive mechanism has a drive mechanism housing at least partially disposed in the housing space defined by the first and second base members, and that the misalignment inhibiting structure inhibits misalignment of the drive mechanism housing by inhibiting misalignment of the first and second base members relative to each other. Fukuda discloses a motor-driven derailleur (14) that includes a motor unit housing (56) that includes a first housing section (56A) and a second housing section (56B). Insofar as housing sections (56A) and (56B) are interpreted to be first and second base members, then Fukuda fails to disclose an additional drive mechanism housing disposed in any way between these two base members and thereby fails to disclose or suggest any mechanism for preventing misalignment of such a missing drive mechanism housing by preventing misalignment of the alleged base members (56A) and (56B) relative to each other. Furthermore, this deficiency is not cured by Kerdjoudj, et al, for the internal structure of the Kerdjoudj, et al device is not disclosed. Neither reference discloses or suggests a drive mechanism housing in addition to first and second base members, wherein the drive mechanism housing is disposed at least in part within a housing space formed by the first and second base members.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of Billman, et al (US 6,028,384). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above. As with Fukuda, Billman neither discloses nor suggests a drive mechanism housing in addition to first and second base members, wherein the drive mechanism housing is disposed at least in part within a housing space formed by the first and second base members.

Claims 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of Kerdjoudj, et al (US D451,072) and Kerdjoudj, et al (US 6,054,785). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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